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brooks may have a high strategic importance in the early stages of a campaign when by the use of machine guns a few men can hold large areas. While such streams can be crossed at any time that it suits the higher military command to cross them, there is always an added price which has to be paid for overcoming this or any other obstruction.

Like almost all others who have treated the subject, the author emphasizes the apparently impossible economic state into which some nations were thrown by the rearrangement of the boundary lines. She finds that the treaty makers "clung desperately to the 'principle of nationality'" (p. 88); that the western Rumanian boundary "cuts streams, canals, railways, and even minor ethnical groupings more or less at random" (p. 78). One has to face the fact that *any* solution of the problems of territory and nationality in Europe would be violently attacked by powerful groups. It would hardly have comported with the spirit of the times to have denied the rising states of central Europe the nationality for which they fought. Their aid seemed important if not vital at one time or another during the war; and to have retained the old boundaries would have been to reward them by turning them over to their historic masters. Hardly anyone would have accepted a possible third solution—the creation of economic groupings to be maintained by force under conditions that would have given superior power if not superior authority to the former ruling caste.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SPAIN

JULIUS KLEIN. The Mesta: A Study in Spanish Economic History, 1273-1836. xviii and 444 pp.; map, ills., bibliogr., glossary, index. (Harvard Economic Studies Vol. 21.) Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1920. 9 x 6 inches.

Among the several fundamental Hispanic institutions which have been the subject of study during the last two decades none is of more interest from the viewpoint of geography than the one which forms the theme of this volume. The Mesta was an organization of the sheep owners in Spain, the chief function of which was the protection of their migratory flocks. The entire basis of the institution, as of the sheep migrations from which it sprang, was geographic. Neither Spain's extensive sheep raising nor this influential organization of the large-scale migratory pastoral industry would have existed except for the peculiar physical environment of the Iberian Peninsula.

Spain early became a pastoral country. The great semiarid, almost treeless *meseta* that occupies over one-half of the peninsula contains large areas that are suitable only for grazing (see Eduardo Reyes Prosper: *Las estepas de España y su vegetación*, Madrid, 1915). So little agriculture was possible in these regions that stock raising developed, not as an adjunct to husbandry, as in most other European countries, but as a separate occupation. Here, for centuries, have been raised the famous cattle of the Guadarrama hills and the merino sheep whose wool long supplied the choicest grades for European markets. During much of Spain's history the produce of her flocks has been her one important contribution to foreign trade.

Seasonal migration of flocks arises from various conditions. Sometimes, as in central Chile, the low pasture lands dry up in a rainless summer, forcing the herdsmen to move their flocks to moister mountain ranges. Again, as in Argentina on the opposite slope of the Andes, the herds are driven to the mountains during the season when rains prevail upon the plains, chiefly in order that the herds may escape the heat of the summer and the insect pests that accompany it, or that their principal feeding grounds may be allowed to recuperate. In Mediterranean countries migration is practiced chiefly in search of winter ranges when the mountains are inhospitable.

In Spain there are two great pasture zones. The first is the hill country, consisting chiefly of the Cantabrian-Pyrenees mountain system, of the Gredos, the Guadarrama, and the Ibérica ranges, and of the Serranía de Cuenca. The second zone includes some of the river valleys within the plateau, such as those of the Ebro, the Duero, and the Tagus, with upper sections of the Guadiana; extensive lowlands south of the plateau; and several districts within the southern half of the plateau itself, chiefly the steppes of La Mancha and Murcia. The sheep belong upon the highlands, where during the summer months they graze upon the hills. This is the dry season, but sufficient grass is found for their subsistence. In winter, snow covers up even this scanty pasture, and the bleak winds imperil flocks and shepherds alike. They are then forced to migrate to other regions. Sometimes pasture can be found in neighboring valleys, but usually journeys of several hundred miles are required before

they can reach districts where there is both a mild climate and sufficient grass. Fortunately while the plateau is receiving its winter snows (almost the only precipitation it enjoys) the southern plains are freshened by warm rains that make for the best of pasturage there. Some six months later the south becomes dry again, and the flocks must return to the highlands. Thus neither zone serves for perennial grazing, and the flocks must journey back and forth in search of feed (see André Fribourg: *La transhumance en Espagne*, *Ann. de Géogr.*, Vol. 19, 1910, pp. 231-244, with two maps).

It was under such conditions that the Mesta originated. In their journey across the central plains and through the southern borderlands in search of pasture these flocks were looked upon as intruders. Every town and peasant farmer, every feudal landlord resented the yearly eruption of these migrating herdsmen from the north, with their thousands of slowly moving sheep, for which they must find subsistence along the way. Taxes, tolls, and various assessments were invented to annoy the strangers and to enable the sedentary agriculturists of the south to reap some benefit in recompense for the damage wrought by these invaders. In order to resist the extortions practiced by local officials the herdsmen united and organized a system of common defense, with regulations that governed the migrations, a system of caring for the strays that frequently became separated from their flocks, and a corps of officers to protect their common interests. During several centuries this guild of sheepmen (supported by the crown, which saw in it a means of counteracting the *regionalismo* that has always afflicted Spain) dominated the pastoral industry of the country and exerted a strong influence upon the agrarian development, upon agricultural life, and upon the general economic condition of the nation. It is the internal organization of this powerful body, its external relationships, and its economic influence upon the country that are treated in the volume under consideration.

No thorough study of the Mesta had ever been made, and the work is based principally upon material found among the almost untouched archives of the Mesta itself. The four parts of the study treat respectively of the organization, the judiciary, taxation, and pasturage. Heavily documented, as such a study in an entirely new field must be, it at once becomes the standard work on the subject treated and leaves one less area unexplored in the field of Spanish institutional history.

Although it is frankly acknowledged by the author that geographical factors lay back of the practice of migrating, there is nowhere any satisfactory description either of the various grazing lands occupied by the flocks in different seasons or of the climatic conditions that made such migration necessary. The volume is concerned chiefly with the organization and the economic influence of the Mesta as an institution, yet some such account would seem essential as an explanation of the setting in which developed the migratory pastoral industry and which gave rise to the Mesta itself.

This volume on the Mesta brings out clearly the great need for further painstaking research into the underlying economic conditions in Hispanic culture. Two important matters, closely related to the present study and suggested in its pages, offer attractive fields for investigation—the land system of Spain, and the character, history, and place in the national life, of the Spanish town.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DATA ON HUNGARY

GUSTAVUS DE EMICH, ALADÁR DE EDVI ILLÉS, AND ALBERT HALÁSZ, eds. **Magyarország Gazdasági Térképekben (The Economies of Hungary in Maps)**. 2nd edit. 74 maps, 6 diagrs. Budapest, 1920. 10½ x 15 inches.

Critics of Hungarian official statistics find the figures of nationality so much distorted, to the advantage of course of the Magyars, that they are apt to convey to persons not conversant with the material an impression that the government statistics as a whole are uninforming and unreliable. Such an impression is mistaken. In statistics of social and economic interest the government provides accurate information more detailed than that which is available in most of the other countries of Europe. The present publication uses this information to picture the conditions of the country as they were about 1910. Most of the maps present as a base the Kingdom of Hungary within the frontiers as they were in 1914, but each map is accompanied by a transparent sheet on which are printed both the old frontiers and also the boundaries established for the new Hungarian state by the Treaty of Trianon, so that the student can readily estimate the significance of the territorial losses resulting from that treaty.